

**MINUTES
WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 20, 2011**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Whittier City Council met in an Adjourned Special Session on October 20, 2011. Mayor Warner called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Greg Nordbak, Council Member
Joe Vinatieri, Council Member
Bob Henderson, Council Member
Owen Newcomer, Mayor Pro Tem
Cathy Warner, Mayor

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager
Jeffrey W. Collier, Chief Assistant City
Manager
Richard Adams, Deputy City Attorney
Kathryn A. Marshall, City Clerk-Treasurer

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Nancy Mendez, Assistant City Manager, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Craig Alexander, Whittier, opposed the flat rate water increase and suggested the City return water rates to the previous structure and add incentives for reduced water use.

Andy Gutierrez, Whittier, said he had opposed the 19% water rate increase at the time it was imposed, was disappointed in Mr. Pelsler and the lack of accountability, and requested the City audit the past 10 years of rate increases and make the information available to the public.

5.A CITY WATER SERVICE FEES REDUCTION

The City Council conducted a study session regarding reducing water rates and received a presentation by Public Works Director Pelsler.

Council Member Nordbak requested the City Attorney determine, prior to FY12-13 Budget policy discussions being held, whether water rights revenue could be put back into the Water Fund to pay for capital improvements.

During the discussion, Water Cash Flow for the period 2011-12 to 2019-20 was distributed in addition to agenda report Table 2 – Impact on Total Service Fees of Proposed Reduced Fixed Meter Charges, updated to include customers with no water use.

Following discussion, it was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Nordbak, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, to: approve a reduction in the fixed fee meter charge to the 25th customer percentile for the first year and the 50th customer percentile for the second year, and direct staff to return an implementing ordinance to the next meeting; direct staff to implement the reductions immediately; direct staff to adjust customer billing and credit customers' accounts retroactively to August 1st to reflect the new rates; and, direct staff to move forward to modify the utility billing system to provide detailed billing statements.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Council Member Nordbak requested staff prepare a public information notice, to come from the City Council, explaining the water rate reduction action.

Mayor Warner requested staff schedule the study session Mayor Pro Tem Newcomer suggested on water utility capital improvement projects and funding.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Marshall
City Clerk-Treasurer